

*See 4/1/82 The War That
Never Was
P. Ayers, Bradley Earl
(Orig under Soc.)*

AYERS

THE THAT NEVER WAS

An insider's account
of CIA covert
operations against Cuba

BRADLEY EARL AYERS

\$8.95

THE WAR THAT NEVER WAS

Employees of the CIA have never been allowed to publish uncensored accounts of their activities. Oaths of secrecy, even though they violate Constitutional guarantees to freedom of speech, are currently interpreted as "common law" contracts and have been successfully used to suppress unedited testimony. But Bradley Earl Ayers is in a singular position: he was never in the CIA. As a Regular Army officer, he was attached to the CIA on orders, and consequently was never required to sign a secrecy agreement. Though his story will be an embarrassment to intelligence officials, they are powerless to prevent its publication.

This is Captain Ayers's account of his top secret assignment to the CIA, training anti-Castro guerrilla fighters at hidden bases in the Caribbean and leading them on raids into Cuba. Ayers tells how he was chosen by the Pentagon in 1963 for his background in commando operations, then turned over to the CIA for indoctrination as an undercover operative.

Ayers describes the chaotic condition of the CIA Cuban paramilitary training effort and tells of the steps that were taken to reorganize and revitalize the program. He found the men he was training highly dedicated but totally inexperienced. Under almost intolerable physical

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conditions, and with inadequate equipment and inferior weapons, they conducted raids against specific targets in Cuba, working from secret bases in the Florida Everglades and the Bahamas.

Ayers accompanied them. There were speeding boats in the darkness, clandestine rendezvous on the high seas and in steaming subtropical jungles. And there was violent death. Ultimately, he became emotionally involved in the cause of the Cuban "freedom fighters."

But after the assassination of President Kennedy, the program began to lose impetus. Increasingly, Washington favored a policy of neutrality in Cuban affairs. Disagreement with this new passivity, and loyalty to the original ideas on which the mission was based, forced Ayers to reach a radical decision: to leave the CIA mission and resign from the Army. That he did so is a measure of his profound disillusionment with official policy and a testament to his singular and abiding loyalty. His book will shake officialdom as much for its operational revelations as for its criticism of policy.

A contributor to various technical military publications, Captain Ayers also writes on skin diving, parachuting, and flying for popular magazines. He lives on a farm near Minneapolis.

*Jacket design by Robert Cuevas
Jacket photo by Mike Sullivan*

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Tom Gervasi

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